

Appl. No. 10/580,664
Amdt. Dated March 2, 2009
Reply to Office Action of December 1, 2008

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled):

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A method of making a high silicon steel, said method comprising adding about 0.01 to about 1.0 wt.% carbon to a steel containing from ~~about~~ 5 to 10 wt.% Si and subsequently homogenizing said steel at a temperature from about 1200°C to lower ~~up to less~~ than the melting point of said steel for a time sufficient to substantially remove most of the secondary phases from said steel which includes carbides and ordered BBC phases, said homogenization process being carried out in a protective environment.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 2, wherein said protective environment comprises at least one of a non-oxidizing environment, a de-carburizing environment and a vacuum.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 2, further comprising using a

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thermo-mechanical process to adjust the carbon content of the high silicon steel.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 2, further comprising producing carbon-containing high-silicon steel sheets from the high silicon steel.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 5, wherein said carbon-containing high-silicon steel sheets are produced by at least one of: (1) continuous casting and continuous hot rolling with a rolling temperature between 600°C and 1000°C; (2) combinations of hot-rolling and cold-rolling with temperatures between room temperature and up to 500°C to produce thin sheets; and (3) combinations of hot-rolling of a single sheet and hot-rolling of double or multiple sheets to produce thin sheets.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 2, wherein the high silicon steel has a room temperature ductility of at least 10%; an elongation of greater than 20% from 200°C to 800°C, and greater than 100% at or above 800°C; a strength of about 600MPa from room temperature to about 500°C; an oxidation rate of 0.01g/m² at 500°C after 50 hours of air exposure; and exhibits the following soft magnetic properties: maximum permeability of 46,000μm, a core loss at different frequency ranges, of $W_{10/50}=0.49\text{w/kg}$, $W_{10/400}=10.56\text{w/kg}$, $W_{5/1K}=11\text{w/kg}$, $W_{1/5K}=8.71\text{w/kg}$, $W_{0.5/10}=6.5\text{w/kg}$.

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Claim 8 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 5, wherein the carbon-containing high-silicon steel sheets are produced with thickness of 0.5 mm or less.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A method according to claim 8, wherein the carbon-containing high-silicon steel sheets are produced with thicknesses of from about 0.1mm to about 0.5 mm.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A method according to claim 5 wherein the carbon-containing high-silicon steel sheets are produced a microstructure of ~~with microstructures that have~~ substantially uniform grains that approximate the thickness of the sheets.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A method according to claim 8 wherein the carbon-containing high-silicon steel sheets are produced a microstructure of ~~with microstructures that have~~ substantially uniform grains that approximate the thickness of the sheets.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A method according to claim 9 wherein the carbon-containing high-silicon steel sheets are produced a microstructure of ~~with microstructures that have~~ substantially uniform grains that approximate the thickness of the sheets.